United Nations S/2002/424

Security Council

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16 April 2002
English
Original: Arabic

Letter dated 11 April 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 11 April 2002 from Mr. Naji Sabri, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the consequences of the use of depleted-uranium munitions by United States and British forces in their 1991 aggression against Iraq and calling attention to the fact that the representatives of the United Kingdom and the United States in the Security Council Committee established by resolution 661 (1990) have placed holds on contracts for drugs and medical equipment for the treatment of the various cancers caused by this depleted uranium.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammed A. **Aldouri**
Permanent Representative

02-33697 (E) 220402 230402

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Annex to the letter dated 11 April 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I refer to our various letters to you (circulated in documents S/1994/1131, S/1998/430, S/1998/601 and S/2001/44) concerning the suffering caused to the Iraqi people by the use by United States and British forces of some 800 tons of depleted-uranium munitions during their aggression against Iraq in January 1991 and calling attention to the serious environmental and health-related consequences of exposure to this radioactive metal, which has caused thousands of casualties, especially among children and women, and to the fact that these catastrophic consequences will persist for generations to come.

When it was demonstrated that the United States and the United Kingdom had used depleted uranium in their 1991 aggression against Iraq, international medical and scientific circles warned of the immediate and future consequences of this fact. It is a scientifically established fact that when a high-density uranium projectile made from radioactive nuclear waste that is a byproduct of the manufacture of nuclear fuel and nuclear bombs strikes a target such as a tank, an armoured vehicle or a building, it produces a chemical and radiological dust that disperses over wide areas and contaminates the air, the soil, plants and people for hundreds of generations into the future given that the half-life of depleted uranium is 4.5 million years. This indicates the dimensions of the horrifying catastrophe that has overcome man and the environment in Iraq owing to the use of this weapon of mass destruction. Exposure to depleted-uranium radiation affects the kidneys, the liver, the immune system and the reproductive system and causes birth defects and various kinds of cancer.

The widespread and indiscriminate use of this devastating weapon has had the result of increasing the incidence of various cancers, including leukaemia, especially in those of Iraq's southern governorates that were the theatre in which this frightful weapon was used.

The British Royal Society has produced a report, entitled "The health hazards of depleted uranium munitions", Part I appearing in May 2001 and Part II in March 2002. It reveals that depleted uranium can contaminate drinking-water supplies and the soil, and that the civilian inhabitants of an area in which it has been used are thus at risk. It can cause renal dysfunction if large quantities are inhaled or ingested from contaminated soil or water, and it increases the likelihood of contracting lung cancer.

The German professor Siegwart-Horst Günther has said that no less than half a million people in the area are suffering from diseases caused by the depleted-uranium projectiles used by the United States at the time of the second Gulf war. He has stated that the area that came under bombardment was a desert region, that airborne particles were carried by the wind to other areas and that the depleted uranium that remains in the ground is carried by the rains into the groundwater and also to plants and trees. He has indicated that the Americans are aware of the research that has been done on such projectiles and they know that they cause the complete breakdown of the immune system, especially in children, as well as such diseases as cutaneous aphthae, a fever that resembles the foot-and-mouth disease in livestock, and various cancers in addition to blood cancer. Depleted uranium can

also cause liver and kidney failure and leukaemia and other cancers, including medullary carcinoma and bone cancer, and genetic malformation.

Mr. Pekka Haavisto, leader of the United Nations Environment Programme team established to assess the effects of the use by United States forces of depleted-uranium projectiles in Kosovo in 1999, said in a statement issued in Geneva on 27 March 2002 that his team had found widespread but low-level depleted-uranium contamination in Serbia and Montenegro. He added:

> "The team was surprised to find depleted-uranium particles still in the air two years after the conflict's end ... . Any soil disturbance ... could risk releasing depleted-uranium particles into the air".

He also said that the most important concern was the potential for future groundwater contamination by corroding depleted-uranium penetrators.

The team leader called for studies to be carried out in areas where depleted uranium had been used.

This testimony from the United Nations concerning an area in which much smaller quantities of depleted uranium were used than were used against Iraq confirms that the scale of the catastrophe in Iraq is several times greater than that in Yugoslavia.

The catastrophic dimensions of the use of depleted uranium against Iraqi civilians are increasing with the passage of time. Their manifestations include a major increase in cancer cases and in exotic diseases and congenital deformities that were previously unknown in Iraq and that will persist for generations to come given that this weapon has seriously contaminated the environment of central and southern Iraq. The Americans and the British bear responsibility for this human and environmental catastrophe. In another respect, the United States and the United Kingdom are persisting in a policy of mass extermination directed against the people of Iraq, for, as well as seeking to ignore the facts concerning their crime of contaminating the environment in Iraq and neighbouring countries, their representatives in the Security Council Committee established by resolution 661 (1990) are also placing holds on contracts for drugs and medical equipment for the treatment of cancer patients and alleging that these are dual-use items. I transmit to you herewith a list of the contracts for drugs and medical equipment for the treatment of cancer that have been placed on hold by the representatives of the United States and the United Kingdom (see enclosure).

The United States and the United Kingdom are incurring a double responsibility when they prevent the delivery of drugs and medical equipment to treat the victims of the aggression they launched against Iraq in 1991.

I request your urgent intervention, in accordance with the dictates of your legal, moral and humanitarian responsibilities, for the release of the holds placed on these contracts so that the relevant medical authorities can treat the victims of the crime committed by the United States and the United Kingdom when they used depleted uranium against Iraq.

(*Signed*) Naji **Sabri**
Minister for Foreign Affairs
[n.d.] April 2002

Enclosure

Ministry of Health contracts on hold that relate to the treatment of various cancers

Compiled by the Contracts Division, MOU Section

The holding side & reason for the hold	*Effect of the holding*	*Kimadia NO*	*$ value*	*Nature of material*	*Comm. No.*	*No*
USA:1051 items: Tab 9, Page 52, Paragraph 78 - Pentium II computers (listed as additional spare parts not integrated with medical devices); WMD dual use related to S/1995/208, Page 21, Paragraph 7.1 and 7.2 - Flow cytometer used for DNA sequencing and synthesis (item #1); Please provide specifications for photomultiplier tubes to include photocathode area and anode pulse rise time (listed as additional spare parts, list B4)	*Increase in death Badly needed item & very important for diagnosis of cancer and genetic biology and immunology disease*	*86/99/497*	*2,113,917.07*	*Flow cytometer EQ.*	*802452*	*1.*
USA: 1051 list items at Tab 10, Page 21, Paragraph 5 -Media for cultivation of microorganisms (items #1, #2, #3, #4, #10, #14, and #15). Tab 10, Page 21, Paragraph 6.2 - Gene probe kit (item #11); Tab 10. Page 21, Paragraph 7 - Molecular biology reagents (items #5, #6, #7 #8, #9, #12, and #16). Tab 10. Page 22. Paragraph 7.7 - Molecular biology electrophoresis reagents (items #13 and #17). What research is being done (what cell lines are being cultivated)?	*If it stile on hold it leads to disability of diagnosis of such cases*	*34/2000/467*	*164,486.77*	*Laboratory materials used in Cytogenic laboratories of genetics disease and cancer*	*802618*	*1.*

The holding side & reason for the hold	Effect of the holding	Kimadia NO.	$ value	Nature of material	Comm. No.	No
UK : We cannot consider approving this contract until UNMOVIC is present in Iraq. USA: 1051 list item at Tab 10, Page 21, Paragraph 5 -Media for cultivation of microorganisms (items #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6, #7, #8, and #9). What research is being done (what cell lines are being cultivated)?		34/2000/467 A	6,867.00		802619	2.
UK = Confirmation of monitoring required. USA: 1051 list item: S/2001/560, Page 23, Paragraph 6.2 - DNA polymerase I (item #4); 1051 list item: S/2001/560, Page 23, Paragraph 6.1 – Ficoll lymphocyte separation solution (items #5 and #9); WMD dual-use item: concern relating to S/1995/208, Page 16, Paragraph 1.6 - Medium and medium component (items #2, #3 and #6).	If it stile on hold it leads to disability of diagnosis of such cases	34/2001/213	21,803.09	Laboratory materials used in Cytogenic laboratories of genetics disease and cancer	802662	3.
USA:- Please provide technical specifications for the included x-ray units to include manufacturer's data sheets, peak accelerated electron energy, figure of merit, pulse capability, beam duration and peak volt/amp power (items #1 and #10). Please provide technical specifications for computer equipment.	It will effect on the treatment of oncologic diseases (Cancer diseases) which may causes death	96/2000/796	4,021,795.79	Simulator a dull size (Simview NT with CT option)	802775	4.

The holding side & reason for the hold	Effect of the holding	Kimadia NO.	$ value	Nature of material	Comm. No.	No
USA:-Provide specifications for all valves including dimensions, weight, type, material composition for all components and linings, flow rate, maximum pressure, minimum internal diameter, actuator response time, and drawings (items #35, #54, #67 and #70). Provide specifications for all pumps including dimensions, weight, type, material composition for all components and linings, flow rate, inlet/outlet pressures, rotation speed and cross sectional drawings (items #44, #61 and #64). Please specify exactly what is being ordered in item #2, 6/10 MV photons -14MeV electrons; Please provide the energy level and type of laser used (items #22 and #23, atch 1). Please provide technical specifications for the heat exchanger to include inlet and outlet temperatures, process fluids used, dimensions, total heat exchange area, and material composition of all internals (item #28, atch2). Please itemize the contents; and provide specifications for the basic network.	Used for radiotherapy for treatment patient wit cancer decease	96/2000/786	7,399,532.06	Linear accelerator with all accessories & spare parts	802812	5

The holding side & reason for the hold	Effect of the holding	Kimadia NO.	$ value	Nature of material	Comm. No.	No
USA -Please provide specifications for all filters including pore size, maximum efficiency, flow rate, material composition, maximum pressure, and dimensions (items #43, #69, #75 in Attachments 1 and 3, and #9 and #79 in Attachment 2); Please provide specifications for vacuum pumps including dimensions, weight, type, material composition for all components and linings, flow rate, inlet/outlet pressures, rotation speed and drawings (item #59 in Attachment 2); In the future it would be helpful if specifications for all computers and boards including manufacturer and type, maximum certified clock speed, and certified thermal operating range were provided (items #31, #32, #33, #37 in Attachment 2, and #35.3, #93, and #99 in Attachments 1 and 3); In the future it would be helpful if specifications for air conditioners including manufacturer's data sheets, capacity, refrigerant, and drawings were provided (component of item #35.1 in Attachments 1 and 3).	It is used in the diagnosis of different diseases including cancer diseases accurately If this item still hold it may cause death in some case	09-M-781	21,803,443.91	MRI	901419	1-

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The holding side & reason for the hold	Effect of the holding	Kimadia NO.	$ value	Nature of material	Comm. No.	No
USA-Pending further review	If it stile on hold it leads to disab ility of diagnosis of such cases	34/2000/1058	823,044.44	Immunology	901271	1-
USA: Goods are on the 1051 list as indicated by the Secretariat.	If it not available it cause increas e death in this disease & difficulty in diagnosis (Hepatites)	86/99/388	108,290.85	PCR units it used for preventive test as test for Hepatites	901282	2-
USA: Items FP202 (vision power station MPX single processing station) & FP285 (set of documentation)	Death due to inproper diagnosis This is very important for diagnosis of diseases	96/99/486	10262045.75	X-ray EQ. Gamma Camera	601270	1.

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Security Council

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Letter dated 15 April 2002 from the Permanent Representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I should like to refer to the open meeting of the Security Council on the situation in the Middle East, including the question of Palestine, and to the statement which I made at the Council's 4510th (resumed) meeting held on 9 April 2002. In it, I referred to the systematic policies which the Zionist regime persistently pursues of disparaging, denigrating and deriding all peace initiatives put forward by the international community, thereby causing them all to fail, and stated that the Prince Abdullah initiative will fare no better than its predecessors. In order to prove the point, I read the Council extracts from an article entitled "How to Torpedo the Saudis", written by Uri Avnery.

I am therefore attaching the aforementioned article and should be grateful if you would have it circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Abuzed Omar **Dorda**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

02-34057 (E) 180402 190402

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Annex to the letter dated 15 April 2002 from the Permanent Representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

How To Torpedo The Saudis

Uri Avnery

In May 1967, an Arab prince had proposed that the whole Arab world would recognize Israel and establish normal relations with it, in return for Israel's recognition of the Green Line border, we would have believed that the days of the Messiah had arrived. Masses of people would have run into the street, singing and dancing, as they did on November 29, 1947, when the United Nations called for the establishment of a Jewish and an Arab state in Palestine.

But then disaster struck: we conquered the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, the Labor and Likud governments filled them up with settlements, and today this offer sounds to many like a malicious anti-Semitic plot.

The leaders of Israel tell us: Don't worry. Just as we survived Pharaoh, so we shall survive Emir Abdallah. (This is an allusion to a famous Israeli song.)

So what will happen?

In Israel, every international initiative designed to put an end to the conflict passes through three stages: (a) denial, (b) misrepresentation, (c) liquidation. That's how the Sharon-Peres government will deal with this one, too. It can draw on 53 years of experience, during which both Labor and Likud governments have succeeded in scuttling every peace plan put forward.

(We must not suspect, God forbid, that the successive Israeli governments were opposed to peace. Not at all. Every one of them wanted peace. They all longed for peace. "Provided peace gives us the whole country, at least up to the Jordan River, and lets us cover all of it with Jewish settlements." Until now, all peace plans have fallen short of that.)

PHASE A is designed to belittle the offer. "There is nothing new there," the Political Sources would assert. "It is offered solely for tactical purposes. It is a political gimmick." If the offer comes from an Arab: "He says it to the international community, but not to his own people." In short: "It's not serious."

One proven method is to concentrate on one word and argue that it shows the dishonesty of the whole offer. For example, before the October 1973 war, President Anwar Sadat of Egypt made a far-reaching peace offer. Golda Meir rejected it out of hand. Her Arabists discovered that Sadat spoke of "salaam" but not of "sulh" (reconciliation), which "proves" that he does not mean real peace. More than 2000 Israel soldiers and tens of thousand Egyptians paid with their lives for this word. After that, a salaam treaty was signed.

Such methods are already being applied now to the Saudi offer. First it was said that Crown Prince Abdullah had spoken about his initiative only with an American journalist, but not addressed his own people. When it transpired that it was widely published in all Saudi papers, both at home and in London, another argument was put forward: the prince has made his offer only because Saudis had become unpopular in the United States after the Twin Towers outrage. (As if this matters.) In short: Abdullah has not become a real Zionist.

Just as we survived Pharaoh, so we shall survive Emir Abdallah

This point was widely discussed in the Israeli media. Commentators commentated, scholars showed their scholarly prowess. But not one (not one!) of them discussed the actual content of the offer.

PHASE B is designed to outsmart the offer. We do not reject the offer. Of course not! We are longing for peace! So we welcome the "positive trend" of the offer and kick the ball out of the field.

The best method is to ask for a meeting with the Arab leader who proposed the offer "to clarify the issues". That sounds logical. Americans think that if two people have a quarrel, they should meet and discuss the matter, in order to end it. What can be more reasonable than that?

But a conflict between nations does not resemble a quarrel between two people. Every Arab peace offer rests on a two-part premise: "You give back the occupied territories, and you get recognition and 'normalization'." Normalization includes, of course, meetings of the leaders. When the Israeli government demands a meeting with Arab leaders "to clarify details", it actually tries to get the reward (normalization) without delivering the goods (withdrawal from the occupied territories). A beautiful trick, indeed. If the Arab leaders refuse to meet, well, it only shows that their peace offer is a sham, doesn't it?

Many peace offers have fallen into this trap. Ben-Gurion offered to meet with Muhammad Naguib, the Egyptian ruler after the 1952 revolution. Several Prime Ministers asked to meet Hafez al-Assad. Only Sadat outsmarted the smart ones and turned the tables on them. He came to Jerusalem on his own initiative.

When the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted resolution 242, the Israeli government did not accept it. Only much later, when there was no way out, it accepted it, according to the Israeli interpretation. This concentrated on the article "the" that is missing in the English version (which demands withdrawal from "occupied territories" instead of from "the occupied territories"), contrary to the French version, in which the article only appears. (The Soviets were caught napping, because there is no article in the Russian language.)

The preferred method is to kill the spirit of the offer slowly, to talk about it endlessly, to interpret it this way and that way, to drag negotiations on and on, to put forward a condition that the other side cannot accept, until the initiative yields in silence. That's what happened to the Conciliation Committee in Lausanne, that is what happened to most of the European and American peace plans.

PHASE C: If phases A and B have not worked, the liquidation stage arrives. Nowadays it is called "targeted prevention" or simply "assassination" by the army.

Against the original UN mediator, the Swedish Count Folke Bernadotte, "targeted prevention" was applied literally: he was shot and killed. The killers were "dissidents", but Ben-Gurion did not shed any tears.

Usually, Israeli governments use two deadly torpedoes in their arsenal: the US Congress and the American media. William Rogers, President Nixon's secretary of state, for example, proposed a peace plan that included the withdrawal of Israel to the pre-1967 border, with "insubstantial changes". Israel released its torpedoes and sunk Rogers together with his plan. His job was taken over by the Jewish megalomaniac, Henry Kissinger, and that was the end of peace plans.

Can the Saudi initiative be scuttled in the same way? If the Saudis stay their course, it will not be easy to intercept it. This time the target is not a small frigate, not even a destroyer, but a mighty aircraft carrier. A great effort will be needed to torpedo it.

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Letter dated 16 April 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the following statement on Ethiopia/Eritrea (Boundary Commission decision) issued on 15 April 2002 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Inocencio F. **Arias**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

02-33771 (E) 180402 180402

Annex to the letter dated 16 April 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Statement on Ethiopia/Eritrea (Boundary Commission decision) issued on 15 April 2002 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union welcomes the decision of the Boundary Commission announced in The Hague on 13 April. The final legal settlement of the position of the Ethiopia/Eritrea border is a central element of the comprehensive peace agreement signed by the leaders of Ethiopia and Eritrea on 12 December 2000 and the peace process between the two countries.

The European Union stresses the need for the implementation of all the provisions of the comprehensive peace agreement and the cessation of hostilities agreement. In this regard, the European Union pledges its full support to the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE), which has an important role to assist Ethiopia and Eritrea in implementing the decision of the Boundary Commission. The European Union also expresses its support to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ambassador Legwaila. The European Union underlines that in order to fulfil their facilitation role, UNMEE and, particularly, the Special Representative, require permanent access to the appropriate government authorities.

The European Union urges both sides to safeguard the peace on the ground by fully respecting the temporary security zone and maintaining continued separation of forces and ensuring there is no unilateral movement of population or troops, as these arrangements will set the conditions necessary for the process of demarcation to begin.

The war between Ethiopia and Eritrea had a devastating impact on both countries. The Boundary Commission decision provides an opportunity for both parties to move forward and take the necessary steps to assist the normalization of relations.

In this regard, the European Union calls upon the parties further to intensify dialogue with each other and other parties involved in the peace process in order to ensure an orderly transfer of territorial control in line with the decision of the Boundary Commission.

The European Union urges both parties to respect the rights of the individuals affected by the delimitation and demarcation of the border and to ensure that any movement of population will be carried out on a voluntary basis.

The European Union remains committed to support the peace process, especially through the Special Representative of the Presidency, Senator Serri. The European Union also recognizes that international assistance is still required to address the immediate needs of civilians directly affected by the conflict and declares its willingness to assist in both countries, within the context of the implementation of the decision of the Boundary Commission, as well as to support

all efforts towards normalization and lasting reconciliation between Ethiopia and Eritrea.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries, Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and the European Free Trade Association countries, Norway and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.

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Security Council

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17 April 2002
English
Original: Arabic

Letter dated 16 April 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 15 April 2002 from His Excellency Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammad A. **Abulhasan**
Permanent Representative

02-33948 (E) 190402 190402

Annex to the letter 16 April 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey to you hereunder the views of the State of Kuwait on the agreements reached at the recent Arab Summit Conference.

1. As you know, at the fourteenth summit-level meeting of the Council of the League of Arab States, held in Beirut, Lebanon, on 27 and 28 March 2002, the Arab leaders agreed on a unified common position with regard to the situation between Kuwait and Iraq. This position was set forth in paragraph 21 of the final communiqué adopted by the meeting, which reads as follows:

> "21. The leaders welcome the assurances given by the Republic of Iraq that it will respect the independence, sovereignty and security of the State of Kuwait and vouch for its territorial integrity, thus avoiding any repetition of the events of 1990. They call for the adoption of policies to bring this about in a framework of good faith and relations of good-neighbourliness. In this context, the leaders invoke the importance of a halt to media campaigns and the issuance of negative statements in order to facilitate the creation of a positive climate that will restore the confidence of the two countries in adherence to the principles of good-neighbourliness and non-intervention in the internal affairs of others.
>
> "The leaders call for respect for Iraq's independence, sovereignty, security, unity and territorial integrity.
>
> "They further call for Iraq's cooperation in the search for a speedy and definitive solution to the issue of the Kuwaiti prisoners and hostages and in the return of property in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions as well as for Kuwait's cooperation in connection with the submissions made by Iraq through the International Committee of the Red Cross concerning missing Iraqis.
>
> "The leaders welcome the resumption of the dialogue between Iraq and the United Nations, which has begun in a positive and constructive atmosphere, with a view to the full implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions.
>
> "They urge the lifting of the sanctions imposed on Iraq and an end to the suffering of its fraternal people for the sake of stability and security in the region."

2. At the opening meeting of the Summit Conference, the chairman of the Iraqi delegation, Mr. Izzat Ibrahim Al-Duri, Vice-President of the Republic of Iraq, presented his country's statement. It contained an important section concerning the situation between Kuwait and Iraq, which reads as follows:

> "The challenges confronting the Arab nation at the present juncture require the maintenance of inter-Arab solidarity to ensure the preservation of supreme national interests and the security of the Arab States. We therefore affirm Iraq's commitment to the security of all the Arab States, including the State of Kuwait. Although we hope to achieve a formulation and an agreement for fraternal reconciliation and the restoration of normal relations between Iraq

and Kuwait, we should like to affirm that even if we have not come to such an agreement, which is what we should like, we nevertheless affirm our commitment to respect the sovereignty, independence, stability and security of the State of Kuwait within its internationally recognized boundaries. I was very sorry at what I heard in the address of our colleague Sabah Al-Ahmad. I hope that he does not deceive himself, and that no one else deceives himself, that we have taken this decision — and we take this position today just as we took it yesterday and shall always adhere to it — out of fear of the United States or the United Kingdom or any other foreign enemy. It was taken of Iraq's own free will, in accordance with the will of its leadership and in deference to what our Arab brothers hope and desire to see achieved between Iraq and Kuwait at this juncture."

3. The parts of the final communiqué of the Summit Conference relating to the situation between Iraq and Kuwait and this excerpt from the address of the chairman of the Iraqi delegation to the Summit Conference are to be regarded as a major building block. They constitute a step on the right path to placing security and stability in the Arabian Gulf region on a firm foundation and a beginning to the process of creating a climate of trust and of peaceful intentions.

4. The State of Kuwait has welcomed the positive atmosphere created by the adoption by the Arab Summit Conference of the section of its communiqué relating to the situation between Kuwait and Iraq, and our commitment to it has been announced officially in Kuwait itself.

5. The State of Kuwait is of the view that the significance of the section relating to the situation between Iraq and Kuwait must not be restricted solely to its positive impact on the creation of a climate of trust and confidence between the two countries. It must also be translated into specific and tangible steps in connection with specific issues that have long had an adverse impact on confidence-building measures. These issues are:

(a) The Kuwaiti and third-country prisoners and hostages. We are hopeful in this connection that Iraq will resume its participation, in a positive spirit, in the meetings of the Tripartite Commission entrusted with this issue under the relevant resolutions and that it will cooperate with Ambassador Yuli M. Vorontsov, the high-level Coordinator for the issues of prisoners and Kuwaiti property, with a view to achieving a positive outcome that will end a humanitarian calamity that has been of long standing.

(b) The return of all Kuwaiti property, and most especially the State archives. This would demonstrate that the Iraqi Government respects the history of the State of Kuwait, as it declared at the Beirut Summit it would undertake to do. The Iraqi Government can return such property through the Coordinator and the mechanism for which provision is made in the relevant Security Council resolutions.

(c) Suspension of the pursuit of any policies or the waging of any media campaigns that are prejudicial to the security, sovereignty and independence of the State of Kuwait. This would be a powerful indicator of good intentions towards Kuwait on the part of the Iraqi Government.

It is perhaps important for me to inform you that the celebrations that Iraq has become accustomed to holding on the "Day of the Great Call", marking the beginning of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, or "The Mother of All Battles", which

marks the beginning of military operations for the liberation of Kuwait, are not in our view merely Iraqi media events. They have come to represent a whole culture that is linked to Iraqi political, educational and promotional thought and that we expect Iraq to eliminate from its cultural, educational and promotional materials.

You doubtless believe that all members of the international community would agree with us, in Kuwait, that we must take advantage of the propitious opportunity presented by the pledge given by the Iraqi Government at the Beirut Summit to resolve the outstanding issues in accordance with the relevant resolutions. We must make of this pledge and the relevant Security Council resolutions on which it is based a framework in which to secure Iraq's cooperation in resolving the outstanding issues with Kuwait as quickly as possible.

In closing, I should like to convey to you my sincerest wish that we will be able to achieve the desired outcome in the dialogue you are to hold with the Iraqi Government and which we have welcomed in Kuwait, as did the leaders of the Arab States at their meeting in Beirut. We hope and expect that the dialogue will ultimately lead to the implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions, to the achievement of detente and to the establishment of security and stability for all the States of the region.

I must also take this opportunity to convey to you Kuwait's full support for all the efforts you are making both in this regard and in order to meet the requirements of your political and legal responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber **Al-Sabah**
First Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Foreign Affairs

United Nations A/56/918–S/2002/428

General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 42
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Fifty-seventh year

Note verbale dated 15 April 2002 from the Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations, in its capacity as current secretariat of the Rio Group, presents its compliments to the Secretary-General and has the honour to transmit to him the Rio Group's communiqué on the Middle East, adopted by the heads of State and Government of the States members of the Rio Group on 12 April 2002, at the conclusion of the sixteenth summit meeting of the Group, held in San José, Costa Rica.

The Permanent Mission of Costa Rica would be grateful if the attached document could be circulated as a document of the Security Council and of the General Assembly, under agenda item 42.

02-33654 (E) 170402 170402

Annex to the note verbale dated 15 April 2002 from the Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Rio Group's communiqué on the Middle East

The heads of State of the States members of the Rio Group, meeting in San José, Costa Rica,

1. Express their deep concern at the serious deterioration of the situation in the Middle East, and at the spiral of violence plunging the peoples of Israel and Palestine into mourning;

2. Demand immediate compliance with Security Council resolutions 1402 (2002) and 1403 (2002);

3. Fully support resolution 1397 (2002), which envisages a region where the States of Israel and Palestine would live side by side within secure and recognized borders;

4. Emphatically condemn the acts of violence, terrorism, provocation, incitement and destruction, and in particular the indiscriminate suicide attacks causing loss of life and suffering among the civilian Israeli population, and demand that the parties cease such acts immediately and fully respect international humanitarian law;

5. Also express their concern at the conduct of military operations in the vicinity of places of worship, and call on the parties to respect the integrity and immunity of the Holy Places and free access thereto;

6. Consider that there exists no military solution to the conflict and urge the parties to proceed immediately to the implementation of a ceasefire and to return to the negotiating table. In this connection, they request that the Israeli forces be withdrawn immediately from the Palestinian cities, including Ramallah, and that the integrity of the Palestinian Authority and its leader be respected;

7. Reiterate their full support for the action and measures taken within the framework of the United Nations for a just and lasting settlement of the conflict, specifically the firm and effective action of the Security Council, and express their backing for the peace and mediation initiatives now under way, particularly the current efforts of the representatives of the United States Government, the European Union, the Russian Federation and the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

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Security Council

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17 April 2002
English
Original: English and French

Letter dated 16 April 2002 from the Permanent Representatives of France and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit the text of the joint statement by Mr. Hubert Vedrine, French Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Jack Straw, British Foreign Secretary, on the Democratic Republic of the Congo (see annex).

I should be most grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jean-David **Levitte**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of France

(*Signed*) Jeremy **Greenstock**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom

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Annex to the letter dated 16 April 2002 from the Permanent Representatives of France and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Joint statement on the Democratic Republic of the Congo by Hubert Vedrine, French Minister for Foreign Affairs and Jack Straw, British Foreign Secretary

(Paris, 10 April 2002)

The United Kingdom and France have followed closely the progress so far in the inter-Congolese political dialogue taking place in Sun City in South Africa. A successful inter-Congolese dialogue is fundamental to the peace process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the return to stability in the Great Lakes region. In this respect, we pay tribute to the work of the facilitator, Sir Ketumile Masire, as well as that of President Mbeki of South Africa.

However, the United Kingdom and France are concerned at the remaining obstacles to an agreement.

The United Kingdom and France call on the participants to reach the political compromise necessary for the establishment of a transitional government which will lead to democratic elections. We welcome the proposals put forward at Sun City on the sharing of power around President Kabila and hope that these will serve as the basis for an agreement.

The Congolese people are counting on such an agreement, as they look forward to the swift restoration of peace and the territorial integrity of their country. This would be a good signal on the eve of a United Nations Security Council mission to the region. The international community have invested a great deal politically and financially in this dialogue, but will not be able to continue their efforts if the participants do not demonstrate their will to reach a political agreement as soon as possible.

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17 April 2002

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Letter dated 17 April 2002 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that the members of the Security Council have decided to send a mission to the Great Lakes region from 27 April to 7 May 2002.

The members of the Council have agreed on the terms of reference of the mission (see annex).

Following consultations with the members, it has been agreed that the composition of the mission is as follows:

1. Ambassador Jean-David Levitte (France), head of mission.
2. Ambassador Stefan Tafrov (Bulgaria).
3. Ambassador Martin Chungong Ayafor (Cameroon).
4. Chen Xu, Minister Counsellor (China).
5. Ambassador Alfonso Valdivieso (Colombia).
6. Ambassador François Fall (Guinea).
7. Ambassador Gerard Corr (Ireland).
8. Ambassador Jagdish Koonjul (Mauritius).
9. Ambassador Adolfo Aguilar Zinser (Mexico).
10. Ambassador Wegger Christian Strommen (Norway).
11. Ambassador Andrey Granovsky (Russian Federation).
12. Lip Cheng How, Counsellor (Singapore).
13. Ambassador Mikhail Wehbe (Syrian Arab Republic).
14. Ambassador Jeremy Greenstock (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).
15. Ambassador Richard W. Williamson (United States of America).

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I should be grateful if you could have the Secretariat make all the necessary arrangements to facilitate the work of the mission.

(*Signed*) Sergey V. **Lavrov**
President of the Security Council

Annex

Terms of reference for the Security Council mission to the Great Lakes region

The situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

1. The mission is in keeping with the partnership between the Security Council and the parties to the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement and with the regular contacts established between the parties and the Council. Its aim is to give new impetus to the peace process, to support the efforts of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) and to encourage the parties, including by meeting with the Political Committee of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement, to implement fully their commitments and to fulfil their obligations on the basis of that Agreement and the resolutions of the Council. The mission will call on all parties to accelerate their efforts to remove any obstacle to the peace process through a viable political solution.

2. At the time when MONUC is deploying in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to facilitate the voluntary disarmament, demobilization, reintegration, repatriation and resettlement of the armed groups referred to the chapter 9.1 of annex A to the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement, the mission will urge all parties to take the necessary measures to start this process and to carry it to completion.

3. The mission will discuss with the parties the means of speeding up and facilitating the withdrawal of foreign troops, in accordance with the provisions of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement and the resolutions of the Council.

4. In the light of the meeting of the Inter-Congolese Dialogue in Sun City, South Africa, the mission will encourage the Congolese parties to work together, in a consensual spirit, for the success of this dialogue.

5. The mission will remind the parties of their obligations, and in particular:

- The strict respect of the ceasefire and of the disengagement plans of Kampala and Harare, as well as of the relevant resolutions of the Council and decisions of the Political Committee;
- The demilitarization of Kisangani, as demanded by the Council in its resolution 1304 (2000).

6. The mission will take every opportunity to express with its interlocutors its concerns over:

- The human rights situation in the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo;
- The humanitarian situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the question of access to help to those who need it;
- The economic situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;
- The illegal exploitation of the natural resources of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and its link with the conflict.

7. The mission will address with the parties the means to enable the resumption of commercial traffic on the river, which would have a major impact on the improvement of the humanitarian and economic situation of the country.

8. The mission will discuss with the parties any other means for the Council and for the international community to energize the peace process, for example through a regional conference on the Great Lakes region, while reminding the parties that in fine the success of the peace process rests upon them and that cooperation, dialogue and confidence among the parties are necessary to advance this process.

The situation in Burundi

9. The mission will provide its support to the peace process in Burundi. It will express the support of the Council to the transitional Government and institutions and discuss the implementation of the peace process.

10. The mission will support the Facilitation and, in close cooperation with it, will urge the rebel groups to cease immediately the hostilities and to enter into negotiation to ensure the success of the peace process. The mission will also address this question with the neighbouring States of Burundi, in particular the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Tanzania, whose efforts in support of the peace process and the Facilitation are appreciated by the Council.

11. The mission will address with its interlocutors the question of the human rights and the humanitarian situation in the territory of Burundi, including the issue of the refugees and the demobilization of child soldiers. It will also discuss with the transitional Government of Burundi the dire economic situation the country is facing and the risks this situation brings to the success of the peace process.

* * *

12. The mission will share its findings and recommendations with relevant bodies, including the donor community and humanitarian agencies.